

The Dangerous Effects of Drugs & Alcohol in Society in Light of the Quran & Sunnah.

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The Harmful Effects Of Drugs and Alcohol In Society

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَرْلَامُ رِجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفَاحِحُونَ

“O you who have believed, indeed, intoxicants, gambling, [sacrificing on] stone alters [to other than Allah], and divining arrows are but defilement from the work of Satan, so avoid it that you may be successful.” (Al-Maa’idah: 90)

So in this noble verse, Allaah has censured those affairs that are abominable and ugly and He informed us that they are from the work of the Shaytaan, and that they are defilement. And within this verse is mentioned al-Khamr: and al-Khamr is everything that clouds the intellect meaning, it intoxicates and puts one in a drunkard state.

Imaam Ahmad reports in his Musnad (no. 378) from the hadeeth of Abee Maysarah from ‘Umar Ibn al-Khattaab (radyaAllahu ‘anhu) that he said when the verse for the forbiddance of Al-Khamr or wine was revealed: “O Allaah clarify for us concerning wine, a complete clarification.” So then the verse was revealed in Sooratul-Baqarah:

يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْخَمْرِ وَالْمَيْسِرِ قُلْ فِيهِمَا إِنْ كَبِيرٌ وَمَنَافِعُ لِلنَّاسِ وَإِنْمَّا أَكْبَرُ مِنْ نَفْعِهِمَا

They ask you about wine and gambling. Say, “In them is great sin and [yet, some] benefit for people. But their sin is greater than their benefit.” (al-Baqarah: 219)

So `Umar was summoned and it was recited to him so he said: “O Allaah clarify for us concerning wine, a complete clarification.” So the verse in Sooratun-Nisaa was revealed:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَقْرَبُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَنْتُمْ سُكَارَى

“O you who have believed, do not approach prayer while you are intoxicated..” (an-Nisaa 43)

So when the iqamaah was given, the caller of Allaah’s Messenger (salallaahu `alaihi wassallam) would call out: **“Do not approach the prayer drunk.”** `Umar (radiyallaahu `anhu) was summoned and it was recited to him. He said: “O Allaah clarify for us concerning wine, a complete clarification.” So the verse from Sooratul-Maa’idah was revealed:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَرْلَامُ رِجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

“O you who have believed, indeed, intoxicants, gambling, [sacrificing on] stone alters [to other than Allah], and divining arrows are but defilement from the work of Satan, so avoid it that you may be successful.”

So `Umar was summoned and it was recited to him, and when he reached:

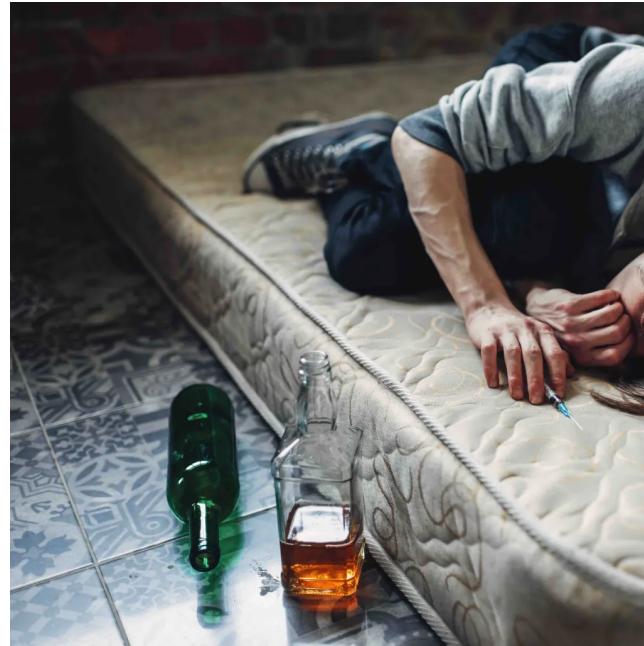
[إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ الشَّيْطَانُ أَنْ يُوقَعَ بَيْنَكُمُ الْعَدَاوَةَ وَالْبُعْضَاءَ فِي الْخَمْرِ وَالْمَيْسِرِ وَيَصُدَّكُمْ عَنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَعَنِ الصَّلَاةِ فَهَلْ أَنْتُمْ مُنْتَهُونَ]

“Satan only wants to cause between you animosity and hatred through intoxicants and gambling and to avert you from the remembrance of Allah and from prayer. So will you not abstain?” (al-Maa’idah: 91)

Upon this, `Umar (radiyallaahu `anhu) said:

“We abstain, we abstain.”

So each and every Muslim knows that wine and narcotics — in fact, all types of intoxicants, such as heroin, cocaine, marijuana, Amphetamines, Methamphetamine, Ketamine, PCP, LSD, solvents such as glue and the most commonly used of all the intoxicants, Alcohol (ethyl alcohol) as found in wines, beers and spirits are haraam.



However, there are those who wish to change that prohibition due to following their desires. There is a hadith of Abu Maalik al-Ash`aree (radyaAllahu `anhu) which mentions the appearance of these people as collected by al-Bukhaaree (no. 5590) wherein Allaah's Messenger (salallaahu `alaihi wassallam) said:

“There will arise in my Ummah a people who will make permissible fornication, the wearing of silk [for men], consumption of intoxicants and the use of musical instruments.”

When we look at the word, “yastahilloon” (they will make permissible); it indicates that a people will come and they will not care that which was forbidden by Allaah and His Messenger (salallaahu `alaihi wassallam). Rather they will make it permissible, not giving the issue any concern – and placing their desires and worldly pleasures at the forefront of their minds. There is found in the Sharee`ah very severe threats for the one who drinks wine and consumes intoxicants.

Imaam Muslim reports in his Saheeh (no. 2003) from Jaabir (radyaAllahu `anhu) that a man arrived from Jayshaan, and Jayshaan is in Yemen. He asked the Prophet (salallaahu `alaihi wassallam) regarding a drink that was consumed in his land, made from corn that they called al-Mizr. So the Prophet (salallaahu `alaihi wassallam) said:

“Is that not intoxicating?”

He said: “Yes.” So the Prophet (salallaahu `alaihi wassallam) said:

“Every intoxicant is haraam. Indeed there is upon Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, a covenant with the one who drinks intoxicants that he will be made to drink the Mud of Khabaal.”

When they asked him concerning the ‘Mud of Khabaal’, he replied:

“It is the perspiration or the pus of the people of Hell.”

Bukhaaree (no. 2475) and Muslim (no. 57) report from Abu Hurairah (radyallaahu `anhu) that Allaah's Messenger (salallaahu `alaihi wassallam) that he said:

“A fornicator is not considered to be a believer whilst he is fornicating. A thief is not considered to be a believer whilst he is stealing. A drinker of an intoxicant is not considered a believer whilst he is drinking.”

What a calamity it would be upon a person who dies and had to meet his Lord whilst committing such acts. We ask Allaah for safety. An-Nasaa'ee reports in his Sunan (no. 6113) from Ibn `Umar (radyallaahu `anhuma) that Allaah's Messenger (salallaahu `alaihi wassallam) said:

**“There are three for whom Allaah has forbidden Jannah:
The one addicted to intoxicants,
one who is undutiful and disobedient to his parents,
and the Dayooth (shameless one) who condones the actions of his womenfolk
when they act lewdly.”**

The drinker of wine is cursed upon the tongue of Allaah's Messenger, and likewise are those who are involved with its drinking, serving, production and circulation. Abu Daawood reports in his Sunan (no. 3674) from Ibn `Umar (radyallaahu `anhuma) that Allaah's Messenger (salallaahu `alaihi wassallam) said:

**“Allaah has cursed:
Khamr,
and the one who drinks it,
the one who serves it,
the one who sells it,
the one who purchases it,
the one who squeezes [the fruit to produce it],
the one for whom it is squeezed (the brewer),
the one who carries it
and the one to whom it is carried.”**

And in a narration:

“Cursed is the one who sits at a table where it is served.”

Abu Daawood reported (no. 3679) from Ibn `Umar that Allaah's Messenger (salallaahu `alaihi wassallam) said:

“Every intoxicant is Khamr and every intoxicant is forbidden. When a person dies drinking Khamr whilst addicted to that, he will not be allowed to drink it in the Hereafter.”

And that is because wine is specific and pleasant reward for the People of Paradise. When they enter Paradise they will find before them a river of wine.

Anything that intoxicates is Khamr and can be made from a variety of ingredients. Abu Daawood reports in his Sunan (no. 3677) that Nu`maan Ibn Basheer (radyallaahu `anhu) said that he heard Allaah's Messenger (salallaahu `alaihi wassallam) say:

"Khamr comes from juice, raisins, dates, wheat, barley, and corn. I forbid you from every intoxicant."

Whichever intoxicant is likely to cause drunkenness or leads to intoxication if taken in large amounts, is also forbidden in small amounts. And that is even if consuming a small amount does not intoxicate because of the fact that progressive increase in consumption will lead to intoxication. Abu Daawood (no. 3681) reports from Jaabir Ibn Abdillaah (radyallaahu `anhu) that Allaah's Messenger (salallaahu `alaihi wassallam) said:

"That which intoxicates in large amounts is forbidden to consume in small amounts."

Khamr is the mother of abomination. It is the key to evil and corruption. And under the heading of Khamr come all the intoxicants and narcotics, whether inhaled, smoked, injected or snorted! It causes ruin within communities: Prisons are filled with people who have committed crimes under the influence of drugs or drink. Hundreds and thousands of people every year die from illnesses brought about from alcohol and drug abuse. Many thousands die or cause themselves injury due to accidents that occur during drunken stupors or drug induced accidents. Drink and drugs drive people to commit obscenities that they would otherwise never consider. It causes them to forget their duty to Allaah, the Most High. It leads to mental illnesses and suicides. Whilst addicted to drinks and drugs a person does not take seriously of his responsibilities. He neglects his wife, his children, his parents, and even his Lord. His behaviour becomes unworthy of humans, having little concept of shame and humility. Families are torn apart, fornication becomes rampant, infidelity a norm. Those communities which have a high level of drug and alcohol dependency also have a higher rates of domestic violence, child abuse and prostitution. Both anecdotal and statistical evidence proves that. Children are born out of wedlock and from adulterous relationships because the intoxicated person loses his ability to discern between right and wrong. These are all facts not denied even by non-Muslim societies so much so that the United States of America introduced "Prohibition" in the 1920's and 30's because they realised the evil effects of intoxicants.

Prohibition in the United States was a nationwide ban on the sale, production, importation, and transportation of alcoholic beverages that remained in place from 1920 to 1933.

The fact remains that alcohol and drug abuse is a major cause of corruption, crime and evil in societies. Any society where alcohol and drugs are forbidden has less crime rates, less domestic violence, less prostitution, less mental health issues, reduced incidents of suicide and less street violence. **Islaam sternly admonishes the wrongdoers from**

introducing the youth to drugs and drink. Abu Dawood reports in his Sunan (no. 3680) that Ibn `Abbaas (radiyallaahu `anhuma) said that Allaah's Messenger (salallaahu `alaihi wassallam) said:

“Everything that clouds the mind is Khamr.. **and the one who gives it to a young person to drink**, who does not know what is halaal from what is haraam, then it is a right upon Allaah that he will give him to drink the Mud of Khabaal, (the pus of the people of Hellfire).”

Hasheesh, Marijuana & Cannabis:

Shaikhul-Islaam Ibn Taymiyyah (rahimahullaah) over seven hundred years ago mentioned the evils of Hasheesh and Marijuana. He considered it to be worse than wine. And the one who smokes it or consumes it, is deserving of the Anger of Allaah, and he has placed himself before the punishment of Allaah. He said it corrupts the Religion of a person, his intellect and mind, and it is known to lead to insanity and mental illnesses. So it is worse than wine and the evil effects of it are more grievous, so the Religion requires that its forbiddance is even greater than that of wine. (See al-Fataawaa 34/213).

The Messenger of Allaah (salallaahu `alaihi wassallam) forbade the use of intoxicants even as a remedy of cure for illnesses. Muslim reports in his Saheeh (1984), from Taariq Ibn Suwaid (radiyallaahu `anhu) that he asked Allaah's Messenger (salallaahu `alaihi wassallam) about Khamr. So he forbade that it be produced. So he asked: “What if it made only as a remedy?” So he responded:

“Verily it is not a remedy, rather it is a disease.”

One, therefore, should not be deceived by these drugs and alcoholic drinks at any level. And any person who has issues of drug abuse and alcohol dependency must seek help so that they do not meet Allaah in that wretched condition. There are many institutions that help people with drink and drug issues, so one should not wait and allow matters to get worse.

Drugs & Alcohol Facts: The Victims and Perpetrators

If you ever doubted the ill-effects of drugs and alcohol upon society, then the following should rid you of any doubts. (Source: National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, NY, USA)

FACT—DRUG ARRESTS: According to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCRP) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), there were almost 1.7 million state and local arrests for drug abuse violations in 2009.

FACT—ALCOHOL and JAIL: According to the Department of Justice (DOJ), 37% of almost 2 million convicted offenders currently in jail, report that they were drinking at the time of their arrest.

Victims of Alcohol or Drug-Related Crime:

Even though you may not be the person using alcohol or drugs, or violating the law, you can certainly be a victim of an alcohol or drug-related crime. In fact, millions of people each year are victims of alcohol or drug-related crime, including millions of young people.

- Each year, more than 600,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking.
- 95% of all violent crime on college campuses involves the use of alcohol by the assailant, victim or both.
- 90% of acquaintance rape and sexual assault on college campuses involves the use of alcohol by the assailant, victim or both.
- Every day, 36 people die, and approximately 700 are injured, in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. Drinking and drugged driving is the number one cause of death, injury and disability of young people under the age of 21.

FACT: The connection between alcohol, drugs and crime is clear. And, so is the connection between alcohol and drug addiction and crime.

Most inmates are in prison, at least in large part, because of alcohol and drugs.

- 80% of offenders abuse drugs or alcohol.
- Nearly 50% of jail and prison inmates are clinically addicted.

Imprisonment has little effect on alcohol and drug abuse.

Approximately 95% of inmates return to alcohol and drug use after release from prison.

Drugs and Drink Ruin Lives:

(Source: National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, NY, USA)

FACT: More than 23 million people over the age of 12 are addicted to alcohol and other drugs affecting millions more people: parents, family members, friends and neighbours.

For some, one time or infrequent use of alcohol or drugs can result in tragedy: alcohol overdose (alcohol poisoning), an accident or fall when under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or an arrest associated with alcohol or drugs that may cost you your reputation and/or your freedom. For others, even though they may not use alcohol or drugs, they could become a victim of an alcohol or drug-related crime. And, for yet others, what may have started as occasional use can turn into an addiction that presents extraordinary health concerns with potentially grave and tragic consequences.

Jessica's Story:

Jessica, a 20-year-old college student, admitted to smoking marijuana and drinking with friends before she ran over and killed a jogger, a 46-year-old father of three, happily married with a successful career and good standing in his community as a volunteer at a local food bank. Jessica was convicted of vehicular manslaughter and negligent homicide. The judge sentenced Jessica to prison for 20 years. Her parents and many of her classmates wept in the courtroom.

The Effect of Alcohol and Drugs upon Youth:

Using alcohol and drugs before the brain has fully developed increases your risk for future addiction to alcohol and drugs dramatically. Young people who start drinking alcohol before age 15 are **5 times more likely** to develop alcohol abuse or dependence than people who first used alcohol at age 21 or older. Research for drug use and drug addiction has found similar results.

Alcohol is widely available and aggressively promoted throughout society. It is the most commonly used and abused drug among youth in the United States — more than tobacco and illicit drugs — and although drinking by persons under the age of 21 is illegal, people aged 12 to 20 drink 11% of all alcohol consumed in the United States.

But, early use of alcohol can draw young people into a host of problems and aggravate existing ones. Each year, approximately **5,000 young people under the age of 21 die as a result of underage drinking**. This includes about 1,900 deaths from motor vehicle crashes, 1,600 as a result of homicides, 300 from suicide, and hundreds from other injuries such as falls, burns, and drownings.

And, approximately 600,000 college students are unintentionally injured while under the influence of alcohol. Approximately 700,000 students are assaulted by other students who have been drinking and about **100,000 students are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape** (from NCADD Fact Sheet: Facts About Underage Drinking).

Yet over 11,000 teens in the United States try using alcohol for the first time every day and more than four million drink alcohol in any given month.

Islaam prohibited the use of all intoxicants over one thousand and four hundreds ago for a very good reason. And the above statistics and stories show the truthfulness of the statement of Allaah, the Most High:

“Satan only wants to cause between you animosity and hatred through intoxicants and gambling and to avert you from the remembrance of Allah and from prayer. So will you not abstain?” (al-Maa’idah: 91)

After reading this, can anyone deny the wisdom of Allaah, the Lord of the worlds, in His prohibiting the use of all intoxicants regardless of one's individual ability in imagining that they should have the right to indulge regardless of the effect of intoxicants upon society as a whole? There is no doubt that society as a whole benefits from the complete prohibition of intoxicants.

Allaah praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the worlds. May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon the Messenger.